

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The newspaper/broadcast

cross-ownership cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

Frankly, the media is no longer a "democratic" media and has been slipping out of our control for some time. Those few who own the media have lost control to corporate lobbyists and our TV news is saturated with "commercials" within the news and the news is censored to exclude anything that might upset the corporations - the list seems to be growing. The programs on every channel air more and more commercials - even so-called PBS, subsidized by one of the big three - has lost it's excellent edge and is eliminating local programming. There may be a greater number of channels now but they are becoming more and more the same.

The newspapers in my town, Detroit, are no longer worth buying - we used to have variety, now we have a watered down rag full of ads.

We need to go back and strengthen the laws that promote local voices and freedom of speech - which is in a very precarious place right now.